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30 August 1954

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE****SUBJECT: NIE 11-4-54: Soviet Capabilities and Probable Courses
of Action through Mid-1959**

1. This estimate is the fruit of long research and many weeks of coordination meetings, not only of the usual group of agency representatives with the Board, but also of groups of economists meeting informally outside the EIC, of the EIC itself, of the SEC, and of JAEIC. This paper supersedes NIE 11-5-54, which covered the same subject, in briefer form, for the requirements of the NSC in May.

2. We know of no important disagreements on the text of this estimate. However, it is always likely that the agency chiefs will come to the IAC meetings with serious modifications to propose. This is most apt to occur in connection with paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Conclusions, which were the subject of much discussion at two agency representatives' meetings.

3. The JIG reservation on paragraph 6 may disappear before the IAC meeting. It is based upon a JIG conviction that if the announced agricultural programs of the USSR fail to the extent that we estimate they will fail, the consequences for Soviet policy and Soviet stability would be greater than we have estimated. We doubt if JIG can hold to this proposition.

4. The G-2 reservation to the first sentence of paragraph 9 may also be withdrawn before the IAC meeting. It was taken because of a feeling in G-2 that the Chinese Communists might be more willing to run risks of war than the Russian Communists, and a desire to express this difference in the paper. Other agencies, and the Board, thought that the text took care of that subject adequately.

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5. Various charts, maps, and diagrams will be published with this estimate. Copies of these will probably be available at the IAC; they have been all checked and approved by the agency representatives.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

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